

Wednesday 8 August 2007

**Northwick Park Hospital**

Watford Road

Harrow

Middlesex

HA1 3UJ

Councillor Leaman  
Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee  
64 Pine Road,  
Cricklewood  
NW2 6SA

Tel: 020 8864 3232

Dear Councillor Leaman

### **Brent Birthing Centre**

I am writing to inform you that we are starting discussions with our staff and other key stakeholders about proposals to change services at the Brent Birthing Centre which is based at Central Middlesex Hospital in Park Royal.

This matter will be discussed at our board meeting, which is held in public, on 15 August 2007. Depending on the outcome of this meeting and our discussions with you, any proposed changes to services would then be subject to public consultation which we would lead on a day to day basis with the support of the Brent Teaching PCT.

Discussions about changing services can be unsettling for staff and often raise concern within the local community. For this reason I wanted to write to you at the earliest opportunity so that we can involve you in these discussions.

The Brent Birthing Centre provides a good service to local women but there are a number of reasons, such as the lack of demand for the service, improving clinical care, meeting the future needs of the local population and ensuring the best use of our resources, that mean we now need to consider its future.

We are currently considering a number of options and wish to discuss issues with you prior to arriving at a definite list of options upon which we would formally consult.

Clearly this is early days and we are just starting discussions. We would welcome any comments you have about how best we can involve you and the local community in our discussions before and during formal consultation. Copies of our board papers will be available on our website [www.nwlh.nhs.uk](http://www.nwlh.nhs.uk) from Friday 10 August.

Yours sincerely,

*Moira Black.*

**Moira Black CBE**  
**Chairman**